

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of synchronizing signals associated with multiple asynchronous base stations during soft hand-off for controlling a communications system, comprising:

communicating with a first base station using signals synchronized with a first synchronizing signal;

receiving, at the base station and from at least one radio network controller, information indicative of at least one second synchronizing signal associated with at least one second base station, the first and said at least one second base station being asynchronous with each other;

communicating concurrently with a plurality of base stations including the first base station and said at least one second base station using signals synchronized with the first synchronizing signal during a hand off period; and

communicating with said at least one second base station in the plurality of base stations using signals synchronized with said at least one second synchronizing signal after the hand off period.

2. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first synchronizing signal is delivered from the first base station to a mobile device.

3. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the second synchronizing signal is delivered from the second base station to a mobile device.

4. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising receiving signals reflecting parameters of communication between a mobile device and the second base station.
5. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 4, wherein the hand off period is initiated in response to the parameters of communication between the mobile device and the second base station.
6. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 4, wherein the second base station is added to an active set associated with the mobile device, wherein each base station in the active set is permitted to communicate with the mobile device.
7. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 6, further comprising communicating the active set to the mobile device.
8. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising receiving signals reflecting parameters of communication between a mobile device and the first base station.
9. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the hand off period is terminated in response to the parameters of communication between the mobile device and the first base station.

10. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein the first base station is removed from an active set associated with the mobile device, wherein each base station in the active set is permitted to communicate with the mobile device.
11. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 10, further comprising communicating the active set to the mobile device.
12. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein communicating using signals synchronized with the first synchronizing signal during the hand off period further comprises communicating from a first base station, a second base station and a third base station to a mobile device using signals synchronized with the first synchronizing signal during a hand off period.
13. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 12, wherein communicating from the second base station to the mobile device using signals synchronized with a second synchronizing signal after the hand off period further comprises communicating from the second base station to the mobile device using signals synchronized with the second synchronizing signal in response to communications with both the first and third base stations being ended.
14. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 13, wherein communicating from the second base station to the mobile device using signals synchronized with the second synchronizing signal in response to communications with both the first and third base stations being ended further comprises communicating from the second base station to the mobile device using signals synchronized with the second synchronizing signal in

response to communications with the first base station and then the third base station being ended.

15. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 13, wherein communicating from the second base station to the mobile device using signals synchronized with the second synchronizing signal in response to communications with both the first and third base stations being ended further comprises communicating from the second base station to the mobile device using signals synchronized with the second synchronizing signal in response to communications with the third base station and then the first base station being ended.
16. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 1, further comprising said at least one second base station retaining in memory the first synchronizing signal.
17. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a mobile device, comprising:
~~receiving, from at least one radio network controller, information indicative of at least one second synchronizing signal associated with at least one second base station;~~
communicating with a first base station using signals synchronized with a first synchronizing signal;
receiving, from at least one radio network controller, information indicative of at least one second synchronizing signal associated with at least one second base station, the first and said at least one second base station being asynchronous with each other;

communicating concurrently with a plurality of base stations including the first base station and said at least one second base station using signals synchronized with the first synchronizing signal during a hand off period;

communicating with said at least one second base station in the plurality of base stations using signals synchronized with a second synchronizing signal after the hand off period; and

retaining the first synchronizing signal in memory of said at least one second base station for later synchronizing communications between the mobile unit and at least one of the first base station and the at least one second base station.

18. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 17, wherein the first synchronizing signal is received by a mobile device from the first base station.
19. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 17, wherein the second synchronizing signal is received by a mobile device from the second base station.
20. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 17, further comprising delivering signals reflecting parameters of communication between a mobile device and the second base station.
21. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the hand off period is initiated in response to the parameters of communication between the mobile device and the second base station and the mobile device receives a signal adding the second base station to an active set associated with the mobile device, wherein each base station in the active set is permitted to communicate with the mobile device.

22. (Previously Presented) A method, as set forth in claim 17, further comprising delivering signals reflecting parameters of communication between a mobile device and the first base station.
23. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 22, wherein the hand off period is terminated in response to the parameters of communication between the mobile device and the first base station and the mobile device receives a signal removing the first base station from an active set associated with the mobile device, wherein each base station in the active set is permitted to communicate with the mobile device.
24. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 17, wherein communicating to using signals synchronized with the first synchronizing signal during the hand off period further comprises communicating to a first base station, a second base station and a third base station using signals synchronized with the first synchronizing signal during a hand off period.
25. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 24, wherein communicating to the second base station using signals synchronized with the second synchronizing signal after the hand off period further comprises communicating to the second base station using signals synchronized with the second synchronizing signal in response to communications with both the first and third base stations being ended.

26. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 25, wherein communicating to the second base station using signals synchronized with the second synchronizing signal in response to communications with both the first and third base stations being ended further comprises communicating to the second base station using signals synchronized with the second synchronizing signal in response to communications with the first base station and then the third base station being ended.
27. (Original) A method, as set forth in claim 24, wherein communicating to the second base station using signals synchronized with the second synchronizing signal in response to communications with both the first and third base stations being ended further comprises communicating to the second base station using signals synchronized with the second synchronizing signal in response to communications with the third base station and then the first base station being ended.